

FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program



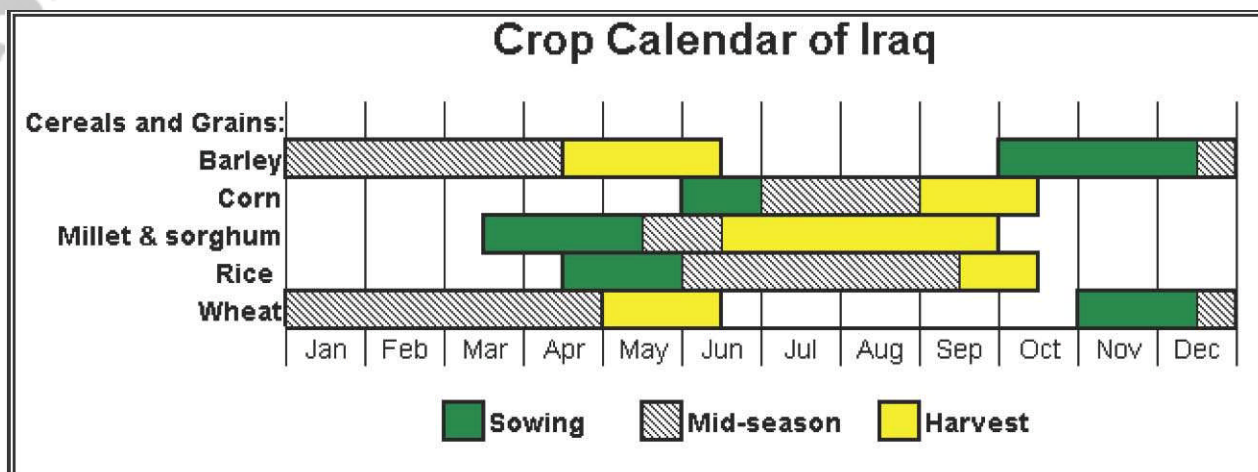
August Report – Week 2

Aug. 14th, 2008

1. Production for MY 2008/09 winter grains is forecasted to be lower than the previous year. Production decreases are related to late rainfall during the start of season combined with below normal seasonal precipitation. The predominantly rainfed northern governorates were impacted the most with lower production also expected in central and southern governorates.

* Due to a lack of satellite observations, reporting on summer crop conditions remain unchanged from the previous period.

2. Comparative image analysis of the 2008 summer crop showed that crop abundance has remained relatively similar to the 6-year average, but governorates heavily impacted by drought and characterized by low crop production are Diyala, Salah ad Din, Al Anbar, and Baghdad (Figure 1). The governorate most adversely affected is Diyala, with major decreases in summer crop and rice production (Figure 2).
3. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is a measurement of crop vigor and is positively correlated with crop yield. Cropland NDVI time series data was extracted for the irrigated governorates of Southern Iraq. The largest decreases in NDVI are found in Diyala, Salah ad Din, and Al Anbar. Karbala and An Najaf showed similarities or increases in NDVI compared to 2006 data (Figure 3).
4. The main rice production areas of An Najaf and Al Qadisiyah are also progressing with an approximate planted area of 55,000 hectares (Figure 4).



FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program

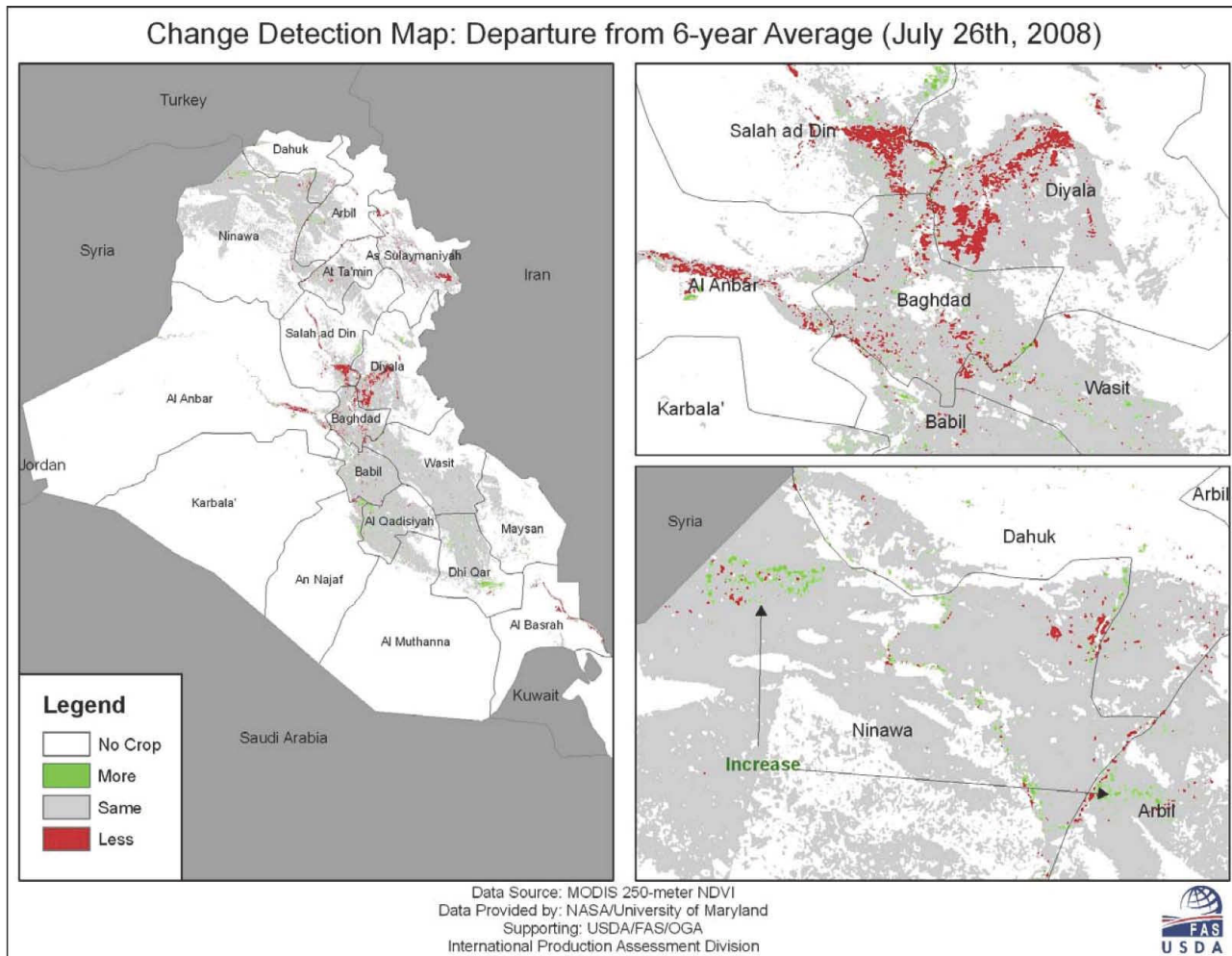


Figure 1: Departure from 6-year average change detection map: MODIS 250-meter NDVI (July 26th, 2008).

FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program

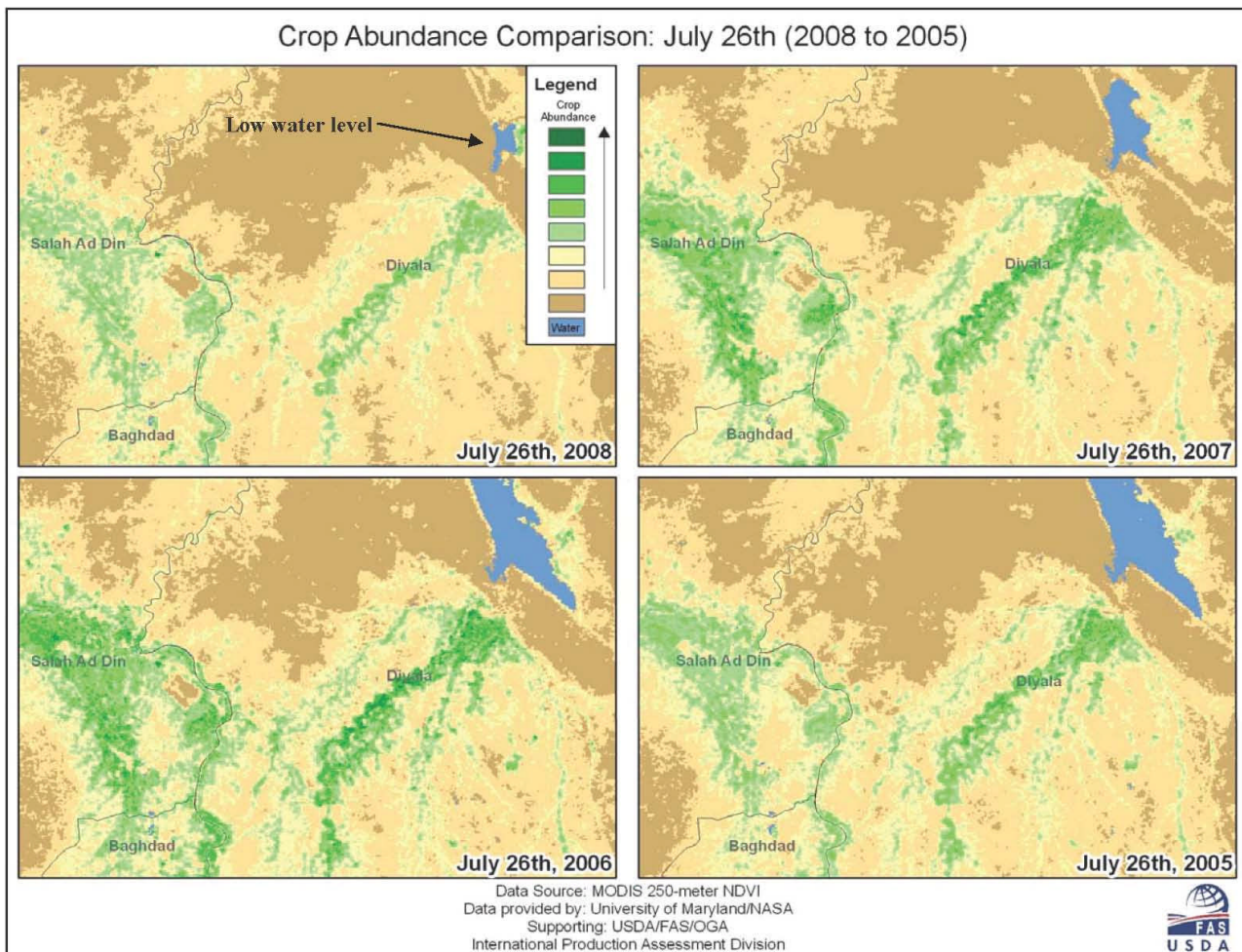


Figure 2: Diyala crop abundance map comparison: July 26th, 2005 to 2008.

FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

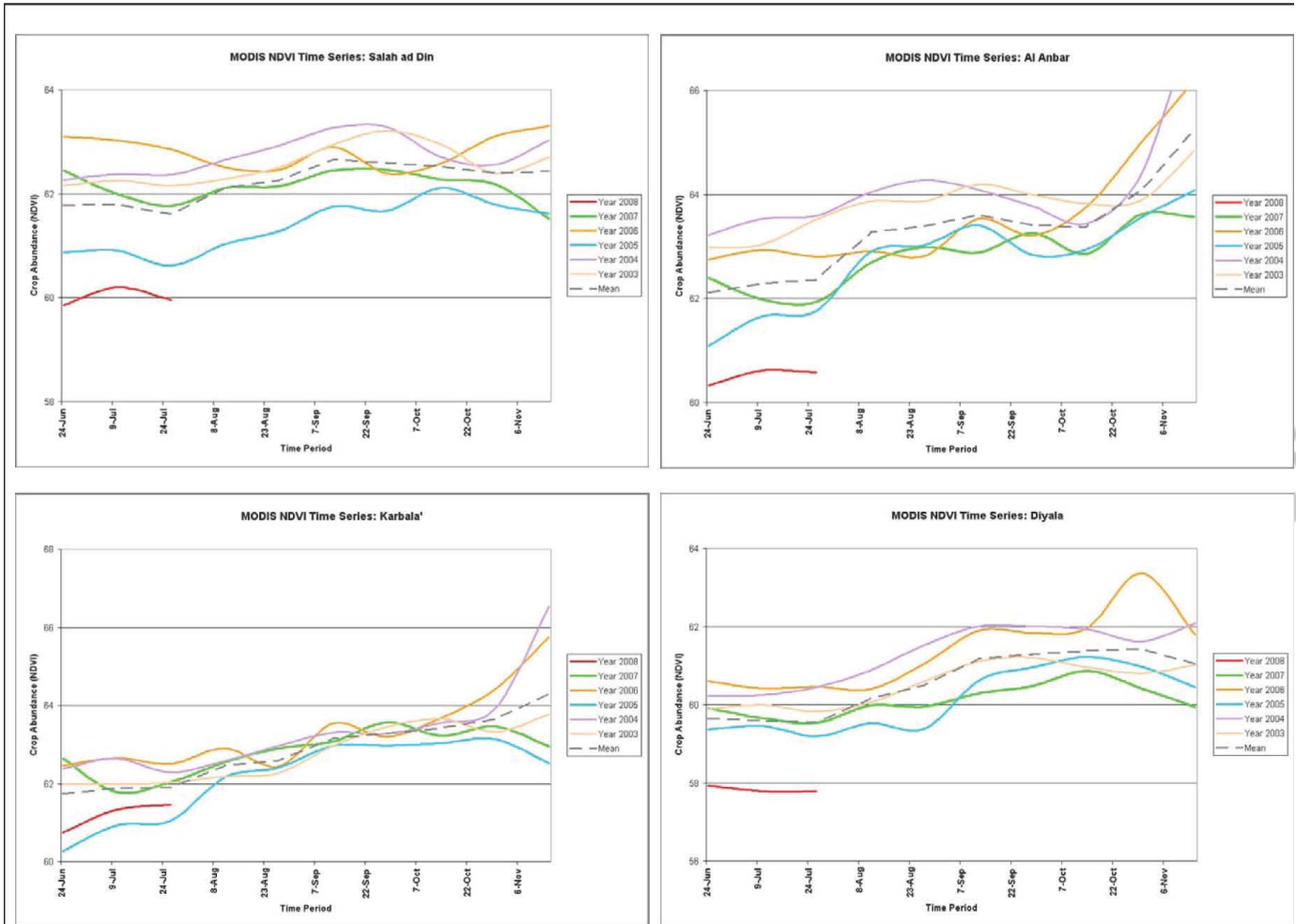


Figure 3: NDVI time series data for southern Iraq: Summer crop season, 2003 to 2008.

Rice Classification Map: July 17th, 2008

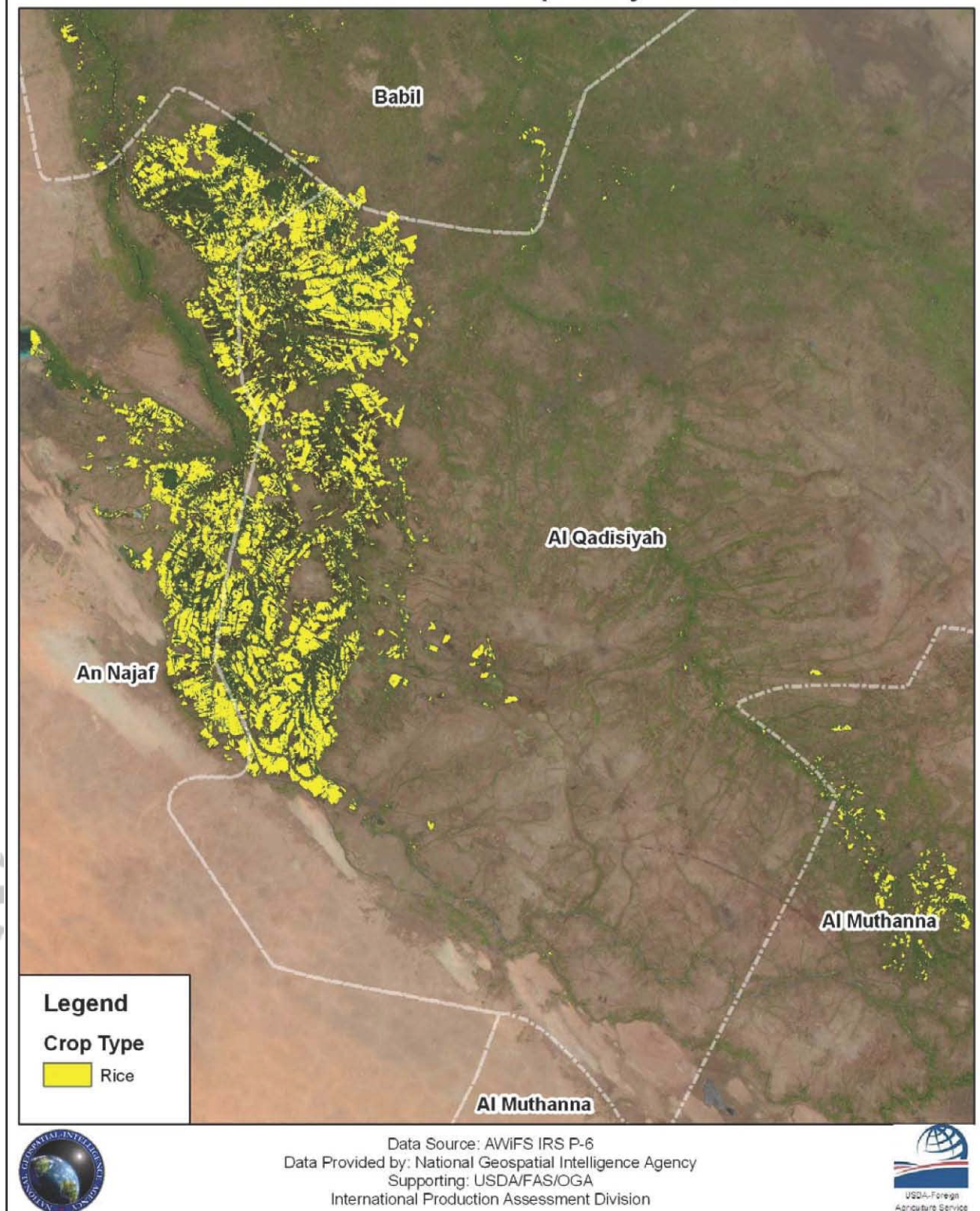


Figure 4: Rice classification map: July 17th, 2008.